

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

2100 Jamieson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Tel: (703) 299-3758

News Release

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
July 2, 2003

For further information contact
Sam Dibbley at 703-299-3822

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the arrest of Consuelo Onate-Banzon, Rony Razon, Alicia Razon, Alfredo Aparicio, Irma Valdes, and Daniel Ramos on federal charges of identification document and social security fraud.

Consuelo Onate-Banzon, age 46 of Lorton, Virginia, and Rony Razon, age 31 of Vienna, Virginia, are clerks at the Tysons Corner office of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Alicia Razon, age 58, and Alfredo Aparicio, age 35, reside in Alexandria, Virginia, and Irma Valdes, age 31, and Daniel Ramos, age 29, live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Consuelo Onate-Banzon, Rony Razon, Alicia Razon, Alfredo Aparicio, and Irma Valdes are charged with conspiring to produce Virginia driver's licenses by fraud. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Daniel Ramos is charged with misusing social security account numbers to obtain DMV benefits and, if convicted, faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The charges against these six defendants stem from their efforts to produce and sell authentic Virginia driver's licenses to immigrants from other states and other unqualified applicants. Under the scheme, Consuelo Onate-Banzon and Rony Razon used their positions as clerks in the Tysons Corner DMV office to produce driver's licenses for immigrants located and brought to the office by Alicia Razon, Alfredo Aparicio, Irma Valdes, and Daniel Ramos. In return for a license, each immigrant was charged a fee of \$800 to \$1,600. The fraud underlying each license varied. In many cases, the immigrant posed as a Virginia resident when in fact he or she lived in another state. In others, the immigrant couldn't pass the required tests, couldn't adequately prove his or her identity, or used a false name or social security account number.

The licenses Consuelo Onate-Banzon and Rony Razon produced through this scheme were authentic Virginia licenses. They produced these licenses by falsifying DMV records to make it appear that the immigrants who received them were Virginians who had recently moved to Virginia from another state. For each license produced, Consuelo Onate-Banzon and Rony Razon would falsely record that the immigrant applicant had surrendered a valid driver's license from another state, knowing that the applicants surrendered no license at all and never lived in the states Consuelo Onate-Banzon and Rony Razon recorded. The government's preliminary investigation suggests that the conspirators began producing fraudulent licenses in 1998 and have sold over 1,000 since then.

According to Mr. McNulty, “This case is part of an on-going effort by the Department of Justice to expose and stop identification document fraud. Maintaining the integrity of state licenses is a critical part of our efforts to deter terrorism and other serious crimes in the wake of September 11th.”

The case against Consuelo Onate-Banzon, Rony Razon, Alicia Razon, Alfredo Aparicio, Irma Valdes, and Daniel Ramos was the result of a year-long federal investigation spearheaded by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles with assistance from agents of the Social Security Administration. Assistant United States Attorney John T. Morton is prosecuting the case for the government.

#